

Outdoor Report

The week of December 1st, 2014



South Dakota



Wildlife Division

"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"

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- East River Deer season ends on December 7th. **Reminder:** The extended antlerless deer season runs from December 27th - January 4th. Only antlerless deer license are valid during this season and any deer licenses are not valid during the extended antlerless season.
 - Muzzleloader deer season runs December 1st – 31st. Antlerless muzzleloader deer season runs January 1st – 15th.
 - **Reminder:** It is illegal to shoot big game from the road/vehicle. It is also illegal to pursue, chase or harass big game with a vehicle. To make it simple, get out of the vehicle and make it a hunt to remember.
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Brown County



Fishing Report:

The lakes and rivers have just recently frozen over. All fishermen and hunters should use extreme caution as the ice is unsafe at this time. Parts of the James River still have open water.



Hunting Report:

Pheasants: Hunters are finding more pheasants in southern Brown County. Hunters have had to work to get a limit of birds. Most hunters are finding pheasants in cattail sloughs.

Waterfowl: With all the water freezing up, most of the waterfowl have migrated out of the area. There are still some small flocks of mallards and Canada geese by Sand Lake Refuge.

Deer: Deer hunters had decent success hunting deer this weekend. The bucks are still rutting, but the rut will be over soon.

Clark County



Fishing Report:

Dry Lake #2: Little activity.

Dry Lake #1: A few perch and walleye are being caught.

Swan Lake: Little activity.

Baileys Lake: Little activity.

Antelope Lake: Little activity.

Reid Lake: A few perch and walleye are being caught.

Dekkers Slough: Little activity.

Casey's Slough: Little activity.

Pepper Slough: A few fishermen have been out and a few fish are being caught.

Mankey's Slough: Little activity.

Carson's Slough: Little activity.

Indian Springs: A few walleye are being caught.

Helgeson Slough: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Deer: Mornings and evenings continue to be the best times to hunt. The rut is pretty much over and the deer are concentrated around food sources and shelter.

Pheasants: Hunters are reporting about 2 to 3 birds per hunter. Birds are spooky this time of year and a little more difficult to hunt.

Codington County



Fishing Report:

Pelican Lake: No activity.

Lake Kampeska: No activity.

Dry Lake: A few anglers have been out on the west end of the lake this week. Reports consist of a few walleye and the occasional perch.

Goose Lake: Goose has had quite a bit of traffic, especially on the weekends. Reports have been very inconsistent with some anglers catching limits of walleye to some anglers getting skunked after long days of sitting. Perch have been mixed in at times.

Long Lake: No activity.

Blythe Slough: Blythe has been busy this week with over 30 shacks on Saturday. Friday reports were pretty good; however, by Saturday, much of the bite had slowed down to a few perch per person.

Grass Lake: No activity.

3rd Ave Pond: Still offering good opportunity to youngsters in and around town to catch bluegill, trout or perch.

Stink: Seeing a few anglers out on the ice. They have had decent luck on smaller perch and the occasional nice walleye.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: There hasn't been much in the realm of waterfowl in the area since things have frozen up.

Pheasants: Pheasant hunting has been good the last couple weeks. Hunter numbers have been scarce with cold temperatures and deer season going on; however, the few hunters who have taken to the public areas in the evenings have had good luck.

Deer: ERD season appeared to have pretty good harvest. In talking to hunters, it sounded like many of them had the opportunity to harvest a deer. Deer have really transitioned to wintering herds in the last week.

Day County



Fishing Report:

Bitter: Anglers are starting to branch out and try different parts of the lake. As of this weekend, there are very few reports of much success.

Waubay: Anglers are trying a few locations on the lake around Kanago boat ramp and the Grenville area.

Enemy Swim: A few anglers are trying church bay, targeting walleye and bluegill.



Hunting Report:

Goose: Most of the migrating geese have moved south out of Day County.

Duck: A few flocks of ducks remain in the area, but the vast majority have moved south out of Day County.

Pheasant: Pheasant hunting remains productive in areas where crops have been harvested. Only a few fields remain where crops are still standing. With the recent snow locating birds in dense cover near food will be your best bet.

Deer: Some hunters have had decent success harvesting their deer, while others are reporting it harder to locate deer at all. With the colder temperatures and corn harvested, deer have begun to group up.

Deuel County



Fishing Report:

Ice conditions are getting better, but please continue to use caution on all lakes. Ice thickness is about 6 to 8 inches in most places.

Lake Alice: Anglers have been fishing the east side of the lake. Fishing has been slow, but there are a few perch and walleye being caught. The walleye bite has been mainly a night bite.

Lake Cochrane: No activity yet.

Lake Francis: No activity.

Lake Ketchum: No activity.

Clear Lake: No activity.

Fish Lake: No activity.

Round: No activity.

School: Anglers continue to catch northern pike close to shore on the south end of the lake. A few smaller perch are scattered in the catches as well.

Bullhead Lakes: A few anglers have ventured out, with little success.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters have been having a little more success with the snow. Cattails along frozen sloughs have provided pretty good opportunity for pheasant hunters.

Deer: A lot of deer were harvested over East River Deer Season.

Faulk County



Fishing Report:

Fishing is slow throughout the area.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are finding great bird numbers in heavy cover. Hunters are averaging around 2 birds per day.

Deer: Hunters are continuing to have good luck during the rifle season. Deer are starting to group up in their wintering areas.

Grant County



Fishing Report:

Big Stone Lake: Fishermen continue to catch a few perch. Most of the anglers have been targeting the central to southern portions of the lake. The perch have been finicky, so light tackle and an ultralight rod may be your best piece of advice for a successful day. The perch range in size from 8 to 11 inches.



Hunting Report:

Big Stone Power Plant: There is still a decent amount of birds utilizing the power plant. There are roughly 4,000 Canada geese and a few thousand ducks. The birds have been feeding a little bit earlier in the mornings, primarily in that 9:00 a.m. timeframe. They have been known to fly later, depending on the weather. Hunters having the best success have been making a full day out of their trip so that they do not miss the main flight.

Pheasant: Hunters are seeing a few more birds now that the snow is here. Hunters are still going to have to put on a lot of miles walking to find much success.

Deer: Deer movement has slowed down a little bit in the past week.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report:

Lake Poinsett: There has been some fishing activity on Poinsett. Most reports have been consistent with a few nice perch and some smaller walleye. **Reminder: There is a 15" minimum length on Walleye.**

Lake Norden: No Activity.

Lakes John/Marry: No Activity.

Fedt Slough: Good numbers of small perch are being caught.

Clear Lake (Thomas): Very slow activity.

Three Buck: Good numbers of smaller perch are being caught along with some walleye.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: There isn't much opportunity in the area due to the ice up.

Pheasants: Public areas such as Mickelson Marsh and Sioux Poinsett are holding a good number of birds. Hunting has been difficult with hunters stating the birds are spooky. Nonetheless, hunters have stated seeing good numbers of birds.

Deer: ERD has been pretty good. In talking to hunters, it sounded like most of them saw plenty of deer and had the opportunity to harvest bucks or does. Some hunters filled tags and others opted to wait for that bigger buck. With one week left in ERD season, deer have started to herd up in their wintering areas and should be susceptible to hunting.

Marshall County



Fishing Report:

Opitz: A few walleye are being caught just off of the boat ramp.

Piyas: Some walleye and perch are being caught.

Roy: Some nice northern pike with the occasional walleye and perch are being caught in the channel around the Roy Lake Resort point.

Clear: No activity.

White: No activity.

West Stink: A few walleye are being caught in the morning and evening.



Hunting Report:

Deer: Rifle and archery hunters continue to see success. Deer movement has been the best in the morning and evening. Be sure to have permission before entering private land. Good luck & be safe.

Pheasant: A few hunters have ventured out over the past week. The majority of the birds harvested have been in heavy cover next to agricultural fields.

McPherson & Edmunds Counties



Fishing Report:

There is 5 to 6 inches of ice. Use caution.

Scatterwood Lake: Several people have been trying, but no reports yet.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Success was not very good. Hunters averaged about 1 bird per person since opening weekend. Pheasants are bunched up in tree belts and heavy cover.

Deer: Hunters are reporting having good luck. Most hunters are seeing deer and harvesting deer. Deer are bunched up and are hard to get close to.

Roberts County



Fishing Report:

Lake Traverse: Some activity, but action is slow. Be cautious of the ice conditions.

Dry Wood Lake: Some activity and anglers are finding a walleye or pike to take home. Be cautious of the ice conditions.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: Most ducks and geese are gone, but hunters may find huntable numbers coming off the Big Stone Power Plant.

Grouse: Grouse hunters are struggling to find birds.

Pheasant: Hunters had difficulty finding birds, but they are finding one or two.

Deer: Hunters are still finding some nice deer to harvest.

Spink County



Fishing Report:

Twin Lake: Anglers have been catching some small walleyes through the ice.

Mud Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Cottonwood Lake: Anglers are trying some ice fishing. There are reports of ice up to 8 inches.

Redfield Lake: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are having great success pheasant hunting when they find heavy cover areas where the birds are holding.

Deer: Rifle hunters are still having decent success. Some nice bucks were harvested, as well as healthy does. The rut has pretty much finished up.